

## CORRYMEELA AS A COMMUNITY (First Draft)

1. This is a try to say something about Corrymeela as a body of people who wish to belong together as members of the community of Corrymeela. It is not about an organization. An organization is not a community. In a community everybody is responsible for him or herself and for everybody in her/his own manner. And in a community there is no hierarchy. Hierarchies belong to (sacred) organizations, not to a community.
2. This is true for the whole of Corrymeela. For the life of its members at home, in the cell groups. For everything which has to be done in (not: for, that is already hierarchy) the community as a whole has to be done in “the place”, Corrymeela, Ballycastle. Everywhere everybody is responsible for the whole in her/his own manner, within everybody’s gift and, if we are really a community, nowhere there is a hierarchy howsoever.
3. To put this again in another manner: Only when we are all responsible, according to the gifts which are given to us and when there is no hierarchy, we escape the eternal power games, the fights about who wins, the completing and the small talks, the scapegoating which belongs to this world, its organizations and dividings between the leading and the led. Of course, even when we find ways to be a community, we stay human, we make faults, we will talk, will try to scapegoat when “things” go wrong, or when we think they go wrong, but it is not a, the organization, which brings us to it.
4. If this is right and if we really are a community, we are, as members of the community, responsible for: 8 Upper Crescent, and everything, which happens there. Corrymeela, Ballycastle, “the place” and everything, which happens there.

Certainly there are many possibilities to give this shape. A fantasy: Every year three members of the community are, in the name, for all the members, together responsible for 8 Upper Crescent and 3 other members are in the same manner responsible for the place. It is possible to give suggestions how it would be possible to carry this responsibility, but first of all, probably, we have to speak about the possibility at all.

5. As a consequence, all who are on the pay list of the Community are on one line. Between them there is not any longer hierarchy. The only difference is between those who are members (and who give themselves and their time, their heart, as all the members do, to the community) and those who are not members, and who do their work under the conditions, made with the appointment. Of course again, questions will arise and will have to be solved. Do we really need so many on our pay lists when we are a living community? Should we have non-community members on our pay list? How do we find good ways to fix the height of the salaries? How do we prevent that the people on the pay list are scapegoated by other members? Many questions to solve?
6. Anyway, I hope that we can speak about these aspects of our being a community, whatever the outcome may be.